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(12) **United States Patent**
Guzelsu(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,381,587 B1**
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STANDARDIZING AND RECONCILING
INVOICES FROM VENDORS**

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTSWO WO 97/29445 * 8/1997
WO WO 98/44442 A1 * 10/1998**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**(75) **Inventor:** **H. Isl Guzelsu, Princeton, NJ (US)**(73) **Assignee:** **Citibank, N.A., New York, NY (US)**(*) **Notice:** This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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705/29, 1, 25, 28, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42,
43, 44(56) **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for managing requests for services from vendors including a database having contract information for vendors, entitlement information for users and requests for services. The requests are compared with the entitlement information for the requesting user and the contract information for the vendor that supplies the information to determine if the request is approved. If the request is approved, the system generates an associated billing item in the database for the request and the approved request is transmitted to the vendor. The vendor sends an invoice of charges associated with the approved requests which is compared with the associated billing items for the approved requests. Additionally, a method for managing user requests for services from vendors is provided including providing a database for storing contract information for vendors, entitlement information for users and requests for services from a vendor. The method includes generating a request for services from a vendor and transmitting the request to the database. The method compares the request for services to entitlement information for the user and contract information for the vendor, and generates an approved request and an associated billing item in the database. The method includes receiving from the vendor an invoice of charges associated with the approved request and comparing the invoice with the associated billing item for the approved request.

9 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets